

REMARKS

Disposition of Claims

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 18-30 will remain pending in the application and stand ready for further action on the merits. Claims 1-16 and 31-42 were canceled previously in response to a restriction requirement made by the Examiner. Claim 17 has been canceled in this Amendment without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 17. In addition, claims 19-21 and 25-30 have been amended so that they are now dependent upon amended claim 18. All of the amendments are supported by the specification, particularly at Example 1, and the originally filed claims. No new matter has been added to the application.

Objections to Claim 18

The Office Action states that claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim 17, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this Amendment, claim 18 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 17. In view of these amendments, applicants believe that claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Rejections of Claims 17 and 19-30

The Office Action rejects claims 17 and 19-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs; 35 U.S.C. §102(b); and 35 U.S.C. §103(a). As discussed above, Applicants have canceled claim 17 and amended claims 19-30 so that they now depend, either directly or indirectly, upon claim 18. In view of these amendments, Applicants believe that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In summary, Applicants submit that claims 18-30 (as amended) are patentable and each of the Examiner's rejections and objections has been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and allowance of amended claims 18-30.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee required in connection with the filing of this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-0780.

Should there be any outstanding matter that needs to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

DENTSPLY International Inc.

By *Daniel W. Sullivan*
Daniel W. Sullivan
Patent Attorney Reg. No. 34937
Tel.: (717) 849-4472
Fax: (717) 849-4360

Attachment